

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Luigi CAIMA et al.) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
)
Serial No.: Unassigned) Examiner: Unassigned
)
Filed: December 20, 2001)
)
For: CABLE, IN PARTICULAR FOR)
ELECTRIC ENERGY)
TRANSPORTATION OR)
DISTRIBUTION, AND AN)
INSULATING COMPOSITION)
USED THEREIN)

being a **Continuation** of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP00/05446 filed June 14, 2000.

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assignment Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before examining this application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title, insert the following section headings and subheading and a new paragraph as follows:

-- **CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of International Application No.

PCT/EP00/05446, filed June 14, 2000, and claims the priority of EP99111860.5, filed

June 21, 1999, and the benefit of U.S. Provisional application No. 60/140,448, filed June 23, 1999.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--.

Page 1, before line 12, add the following new subheading;

--Description of the Related Art--.

Page 4, before line 21, add the following new section heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 13, before line 14, add the following new section heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 13, before line 23, add the following new section heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel now pending claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer and substitute new claims 22-42 therefor as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

22. (New) An electric cable comprising at least one conductor and at least one insulating layer, said insulating layer comprising a substantially lead-free polymer composition comprising as base polymer material an elastomer terpolymer having the following composition:

- a) 50-90 moles percent of ethylene;
- b) 10-50 moles percent of an α -olefin; and
- c) 0.16-5 moles percent of 5-vinyl-2-norbornene;

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the sum of the moles percent of a), b), and c) being 100, said terpolymer having a branching index of less than or equal to 0.5 and a molecular weight distribution index M_w/M_n of greater than or equal to 6.

23. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, wherein the terpolymer has a Mooney viscosity [ML (1+4 at 125°C)] of 10-80.

24. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, wherein the terpolymer has a branching index of less than or equal to 0.4.

25. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, wherein the polymer composition has a zinc oxide content of less than 10 phr.

26. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 25, wherein the zinc oxide content varies between 3 and 8 phr.

27. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, wherein the polymer composition comprises an elastomer mixture comprising the elastomer terpolymer mixed with at least one other polymer in a quantity of less than or equal to 30 phr of the mixture and selected from polyolefins, thermoplastic propylene/ethylene polymers, ethylene/propylene elastomer copolymers, ethylene/propylene/diene elastomer copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

28. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 27, wherein the one other polymer is selected from low-density polyethylene, low-density linear polyethylene, and very low density polyethylene.

29. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, wherein the α -olefin is $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH-R}$, where R is a linear or branched alkyl containing 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

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30. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 29, wherein the α -olefin is selected from propylene, 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1,4-methyl-1-pentene, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene and combinations thereof.

31. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 29, wherein the α -olefin is propylene.

32. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, further comprising at least one layer with semiconductive properties comprising the polymer composition as claimed in claim 22 having a conductive filler dispersed therein.

33. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition comprising as base polymer material an elastomer terpolymer having the following composition:

- a) 50-90 moles percent of ethylene;
- b) 10-50 moles percent of an α -olefin; and
- c) 0.16-5 moles percent of 5-vinyl-2-norbornene;

the sum of the moles percent of a), b), and c) being 100, said terpolymer having a branching index of less than or equal to 0.5 and a molecular weight distribution index M_w/M_n of greater than or equal to 6.

34. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the terpolymer has a Mooney viscosity [ML (1+4 at 125°C)] of 10-80.

35. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the terpolymer has a branching index of less than or equal to 0.4.

36. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, comprising zinc oxide in a quantity of less than 10 phr.

37. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 36, wherein the zinc oxide content varies between 3 and 8 phr.

38. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, comprising an elastomer mixture comprising the elastomer terpolymer mixed with at least one other polymer in a quantity of less than or equal to 30 phr of the mixture and selected from polyolefins, thermoplastic propylene/ethylene copolymers, ethylene/propylene elastomer copolymers, ethylene/propylene/diene elastomer copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

39. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 38, wherein the one other polymer is selected from low-density polyethylene, low-density linear polyethylene, and very low density polyethylene.

40. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the α -olefin is $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH-R}$, where R is a linear or branched alkyl containing 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

41. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 40, wherein the α -olefin is selected from propylene, 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1,4-methyl-1-pentene, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene and combinations thereof.

42. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the α -olefin is propylene.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple claim dependency and to conform them to U.S. practice. Claims 22-42 are pending in this application. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not account for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposition account.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 20, 2001

By: 

Ernest F. Chapman
Reg. No. 25,961

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